



Bring in Your Mercury

To a Hazardous Waste Collection Site.

Waukesha County Residents, Schools,
Dentists, Clinics, HVAC contractors and
Businesses.

Products containing Mercury:

| Product | Description | Alternatives |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Thermometers | Silver liquid | Digital |
| Thermostat | All non-digital | Digital |
| Dental Amalgam | Silver teeth fillings | Ask dentist about other treatment alternatives |
| Auto Switches | Light switches in hood and trunk | Ball bearing switches are available for about \$1.00 |
| Shoes, games | Light up shoes, mercury maze games | Mercury free alternative are available |
| Pharmaceuticals | Certain nasal sprays, ointments, contact lens solutions | Read labels, avoid products with Thimerosal, phenylmercuric acetate, merbromin |
| Medical Instruments | See website for list | Alternatives are available |
| Manometers | Vacuum gauge for pressure measurement | Alternatives are available |

Visit this Website for more information
www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Households and Schools

Free disposal offered. Schools must pre-register.



Thermometer Collections at Local Pharmacies

The Waukesha County Mercury Collection Program will be partnering with local pharmacies to hold thermometer collections for the public. Just bring your mercury thermometer to a participating pharmacy for a reduced price on a digital replacement. See our website or call for list of participating pharmacies and dates.



Thermostat Replacement

When replacing a thermostat, ask your contractor to install a digital one and recycle the old one. Digital thermostats are mercury free and can save you a lot of money on heating bills. For a list of local HVAC contractors participating in the National Thermostat Recycling program visit our website.

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Waukesha County Department of Parks
and Land Use
896-8300

Business Disposal

Dentists, medical clinics, businesses may dispose of unwanted mercury products for a **low cost disposal rate.** Don't expose your business or practice to unnecessary liabilities when there is an easy low cost solution!

Pre-Registration Required

For schools, dentists, medical clinics, and businesses.
Not for households.
Its easy call 262-896-8327 or
www.waukeshacounty/recycling
To register online.

Transporting Mercury

Use caution when transporting your mercury products. Please double bag them using zip-lock bags or contain the items in a sealed plastic container.

Resources

Visit our Website:

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

For more information on Waukesha County Mercury Collection Program call
262-896-8327

Other Web Resources

www.dnr.state.wi.us/Environment.html
www.epa.gov/mercury/index.html

To Prevent Mercury Pollution

- ✓ Use mercury free alternative products (alcohol or digital thermometers, digital thermostats)
- ✓ Purchase fluorescent bulbs and recycle
- ✓ Reduce use of electricity
- ✓ Ask your dentist if they recycle amalgam waste
- ✓ Support legislation that helps keep mercury out of the waste stream.

In Case of Mercury Spill

Keep all people and pets away!

Never use a vacuum or broom!

Do not touch mercury. Put on gloves, preferably rubber and scoop up using index cards and put in a zip lock bag or air tight container. Small beads can be sucked up using an eye dropper or sponge. Make sure you put the whole sponge or eye dropper in the bag and drop off at a local Hazardous Waste collection site. If it spills on a rug, cut out the contaminated piece and bag it.

For spills larger than a thermometer call
Spill Report Line 1-800-943-0003



Waukesha County Mercury Collection Program



Protecting community health by raising public awareness and by safely collecting and recycling mercury.

Hazardous Waste Collection Sites

Waukesha:

Waukesha Incinerator Building
900 Sentry Drive
2nd and 4th Saturday of month
8am-4pm (Except holidays)
3rd Wednesday 11am-7pm
May-October

Muskego:

Jensen Environmental Management
W144 S6347 College Court
Hours: Every Saturday
(8:00am to 12:00 noon)

Menomonee Falls:

Onyx Environmental Services
W124 N9451 Boundary Rd.
Hours: Monday and Wednesday
11:00 am to 6:00pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 2:00pm
(Except Holidays)

Check out our Website for more information and special collection events.

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

The Mercury Health Hazard

Mercury is a natural occurring element found in earth's crust. This silver metal is a liquid at room temperature. Because of its useful qualities, it is used in the manufacture of many products. In the home it may be found in thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent light bulbs and more. It is also present in coal, oil and natural gas. Mercury is a Health Hazard. Its toxic properties cause damage to the human brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver affecting the ability to learn, speak, feel, see, taste, and move. Mercury is especially dangerous to children under 15 whose nervous systems are still developing. Women who are or want to be pregnant are also at high risk since mercury travels quickly from mother to fetus affecting fetal development. Most human exposure to mercury is from mercury spills or eating contaminated fish.



Follow the Mercury Trail

- 1.) Mercury is released into the environment by the burning of fossil fuels (primarily coal) or when products containing mercury are landfilled or incinerated.
- 2.) Mercury quickly becomes airborne, attaches to water droplets and returns to earth in rain or snow.
- 3.) Bacteria in lakes and rivers convert it to a more toxic form called methyl mercury which is absorbed by plankton and fish.
- 4.) Mercury builds up in the muscle tissue of fish and wildlife and eventually humans who eat the fish.
- 5.) Mercury in the body affects the brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. Especially dangerous to fetal development and children.



The Facts

- According to the DNR 1 gram of mercury deposited per year can contaminate a 20 acre lake.
- One fever thermometer holds about ½ gram of mercury.
- A home thermostat contains about 3 grams of mercury.
- Mercury is harmful to both humans and animals. Fish eating wild life such as loons, eagles and beaver suffer from reproduction problems, weight loss, and early death.
- Participating in the Waukesha County Mercury Collection Program is a great way to make a difference!

Statewide Fish Consumption Advisory

For Wisconsin rivers and inland lakes.

- Women of childbearing years and children under 15 should eat no more than one meal of walleye, pike and other large fish a month. One meal a week for perch, crappie, bluegill and other small fish.
- Men over 15 may safely eat one meal a week of walleye, pike, and other large fish. Unlimited amount of perch, bluegill, crappie and other small fish.

